

# Autism

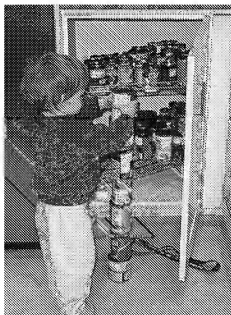
From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

**Autism** is a disorder of neural development characterized by impaired social interaction and communication, and by restricted and repetitive behavior. These signs all begin before a child is three years old.<sup>[1]</sup> Autism affects information processing in the brain by altering how nerve cells and their synapses connect and organize; how this occurs is not well understood.<sup>[2]</sup> It is one of three recognized disorders in the autism spectrum (ASDs), the other two being Asperger syndrome, which lacks delays in cognitive development and language, and Pervasive Developmental Disorder-Not Otherwise Specified (commonly abbreviated as PDD-NOS), which is diagnosed when the full set of criteria for autism or Asperger syndrome are not met.<sup>[3]</sup>

Autism has a strong genetic basis, although the genetics of autism are complex and it is unclear whether ASD is explained more by rare mutations, or by rare combinations of common genetic variants.<sup>[4]</sup> In rare cases, autism is strongly associated with agents that cause birth defects.<sup>[5]</sup> Controversies surround other proposed environmental causes, such as heavy metals,

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### *Classification and external resources*



Repetitively stacking or lining up objects is a behavior occasionally associated with individuals with autism.

<b>ICD-10</b>	F84.0 ( <a href="http://apps.who.int/classifications/apps/icd/icd10online/?gf80.htm+f840">http://apps.who.int/classifications/apps/icd/icd10online/?gf80.htm+f840</a> )
<b>ICD-9</b>	299.00
<b>OMIM</b>	209850 ( <a href="http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/omim/209850">http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/omim/209850</a> )
<b>DiseasesDB</b>	1142 ( <a href="http://www.diseasesdatabase.com/ddb1142.htm">http://www.diseasesdatabase.com/ddb1142.htm</a> )
<b>MedlinePlus</b>	001526 ( <a href="http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/001526.htm">http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/001526.htm</a> )
<b>eMedicine</b>	med/3202 ( <a href="http://www.emedicine.com/med/topic3202.htm">http://www.emedicine.com/med/topic3202.htm</a> ) ped/180 ( <a href="http://www.emedicine.com/ped/topic180.htm#">http://www.emedicine.com/ped/topic180.htm#</a> )
<b>MeSH</b>	D001321 ( <a href="http://www.nlm.nih.gov/cgi/mesh/2010/MB_cgi?field=uid&amp;term=D001321">http://www.nlm.nih.gov/cgi/mesh/2010/MB_cgi?field=uid&amp;term=D001321</a> )
<b>GeneReviews</b>	Autism overview ( <a href="http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/bookshelf/br.fcgi?book=gene&amp;part=autism-overview">http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/bookshelf/br.fcgi?book=gene&amp;part=autism-overview</a> )